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*** TOP SECRET ***

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FM THE SITUATION ROOM//TOHAK #3//

TO AL ADAMS FOR THE SECRETARY

T O P S E C R E T SENSITIVE CONTAINS CODEWORD VIA BLACK PATCH W451851

State Dept. review completed

TOHAK #3

TOP SECRET-SENSITIVE
CONTAINS CODEWORD

SEPTEMBER 22, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR:
FROM:
SUBJECT:

THE PRESIDENT
HENRY A. KISSINGER
INFORMATION ITEMS

COLOMBIAN PRESIDENTIAL VISIT TO U.S.: PRESIDENT LOPEZ' STATE VISIT TO WASHINGTON THIS WEEK COMES AT A LESS THAN AUSPICIOUS MOMENT FOR HIM. COLOMBIA IS PLAGUED BY A SERIOUS ECONOMIC SLUMP, A RASH OF GUERRILLA KIDNAPINGS AND MURDERS, AND AN ACUTE URBAN CRIME WAVE -- ALL OF WHICH HAVE PROMPTED THE PRESIDENT TO DECLARE A NATIONWIDE STATE OF SIEGE. HE ALSO WEATHERED THE FIRST SERIOUS POLITICAL STORM OF HIS 13 MONTHS IN OFFICE RECENTLY WHEN THE OPPOSITION MEMBERS OF HIS COALITION GOVERNMENT ATTEMPTED BRIEFLY TO LEAVE THE ADMINISTRATION. IN THE AREA OF BILATERAL RELATIONS, THERE ARE CURRENTLY SEVERAL SIGNS OF FRICTION BETWEEN COLOMBIA AND THE U.S. LOPEZ WILL TRY TO PUT THESE POOR REFLECTIONS IN THE SHADOW WITH A SHOW OF ADVISING YOU ON U.S. RELATIONS WITH OTHER COUNTRIES IN THE AMERICAS. THIS WOULD FURTHER LOPEZ' EFFORTS TO CAST HIMSELF AS A LEADER IN THE LATIN AMERICAN COMMUNITY. HE WILL COME TO WASHINGTON CONVINCED OF HIS IMPORTANCE TO THE U.S. AS PRESIDENT OF ONE OF LATIN AMERICA'S FEW AUTHENTIC DEMOCRACIES. DESPITE HIS PLURALISTIC POLICY OF MAINTAINING RELATIONS WITH COUNTRIES OF ALL IDEOLOGIES, HE IS A FIRM FRIEND OF THE U.S. HE IS ALSO INCLINED TO BE AN ADVOCATE FOR THE U.S. IN THE LEADERSHIP ROLE TO WHICH HE ASPIRES IN THOSE REGIONAL FORUMS FROM WHICH MANY COUNTRIES IN THE HEMISPHERE WOULD PREFER TO SEE THE U.S. WITHDRAW.

PANAMA DISCLOSES NEGOTIATION DETAILS: FOLLOWING REMARKS

***** WHSR COMMENT *****

ON-FILE NSC RELEASE INSTRUCTIONS
APPLY

SEC FILE, SDD

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LAST WEEK BY MYSELF AND AMBASSADOR BUNKER INTERPRETED IN PANAMA AS INDICATING A HARDENED U.S. POSITION IN THE TREATY TALKS. PANAMANIAN LEADER GENERAL TORRIJOS ORDERED A "PUBLIC ACCOUNT OF THE TALKS." THE PANAMANIAN GOVERNMENT HAS NOW ISSUED TO THE PRESS A RELEASE OUTLINING THE STATUS OF THE NEGOTIATIONS. THE RELEASE GIVES DETAILS OF THE AGREEMENTS WHICH HAVE BEEN REACHED ON DEFENSE, JURISDICTION AND ADMINISTRATION OF THE CANAL AND OF THE AREAS IN WHICH DISAGREEMENTS STILL EXIST. IT SEEMS LIKELY THAT THE DECISION TO GO PUBLIC WITH THE NEGOTIATING POSITIONS WAS TAKEN BEFORE THESE REMARKS. THE PANAMANIANS PROBABLY BASED THEIR JUDGMENT ON THE FACT THAT MOST OF THE POSITIONS HAD ALREADY BECOME PUBLIC ANYWAY THROUGH LEAKS AND THAT, SINCE WE APPEARED SERIOUS IN OUR INTEREST IN CONTINUING NEGOTIATIONS OVER A LONGER TERM, IT WOULD NOT HURT TO BUILD UP SOME POPULAR PRESSURE BEHIND THEIR POSITION IN ORDER TO OBTAIN A MORE FAVORABLE FINAL TREATY. THEY REALIZED THAT A SLOWING DOWN OF THE NEGOTIATIONS WAS INEVITABLE IN ANY CASE.

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